

Knowing the call to the American public about transparency, and we all heard that during the month of August, would the gentleman allow, before any bill comes to the floor—and I guess the bill would be H.R. 3200, from what I am hearing the gentleman say. I know it is in committee, but when you get to that final version—

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield, because I want to clarify that.

H.R. 3200 was a base bill that was put together by the committee Chairs, the committee staff, with input from others, as a mark. My expectation is that there will be a compendium that will be put together and we will probably have a new number on it. So I don't think H.R. 3200, which was a base mark, but you understand this was a bill, and, as you well know, in three committees, so there may well be a bill fashioned from the product of the three committees.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, so it would be a different number, but in essence the same bill.

Would the gentleman allow, before that bill is voted on on this floor when you come to the conclusion of where that bill ends up, would we be able to have the time to go back to the American public and, again, all of us have townhall meetings again for the transparency of saying this is the bill that would be voted on in the House?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There has been unprecedented, I reiterate, I don't think you can remember, and I have been here 29 years and I can't remember a bill that has been more widely vetted than this bill in terms of the American public. Maybe the Social Security proposal the President some years ago had, that was pretty widely vetted, but I don't think as widely vetted as this proposal.

So I say to the gentleman, you go and you vet the bill, you discuss alternatives, you then come back after having listened to those alternatives and fashion a bill. You don't have new committee hearings, whether it is a health care bill or any other bill. You amend it and you perfect it pursuant to hearings, and then you bring it to the floor. I don't expect we will treat this bill any differently.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman.

The only thing I would ask, knowing that the American public did have this bill vetted but the majority of the American public disagreed with this bill, disagreed with the public option, and having the transparency here that the American public is asking, having the American public so engaged and educated on health care and it being such an issue, I always thought it would be helpful not only to this body but to the American public itself, before we go and vote again, whatever comes before that bill to come to the House, that you allow the opportunity

for Members to go home and have a townhall and explain what is in the final version of the bill before that vote takes place. I think the American public would appreciate it, and it would be a great opportunity for both sides.

Mr. HOYER. Well, if the gentleman will yield, I want to say clearly, as you know, the base bill, the mark bill from which the three committees worked, as you know, was put online before the August break, so that it has been online for a very long period of time. Now, there will be changes. There will be amendments. There have already been amendments in the three committees and those have been online.

So, I think the gentleman's concern is correct. We share it. We want to make sure the public has the opportunity to know what is being done, that we transparently have the specifics for the American public to know what we are doing and for the Members to have that knowledge, and we intend to do that.

Now, whether or not we are going to have a timeframe in which somebody can have a townhall meeting, which may take a month to notice and get together, I think you would be shocked if I responded to you that, oh, sure, we will just wait around until you have your town meetings. So I am not going to say that. But I do appreciate the gentleman's point, which is we want to make sure the public does in fact have notice.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Well, I thank the gentleman and I appreciate his answers today. The one thing I would say, I did this townhall in Bakersfield, California, where I did no notice, I didn't do a mailer, and gave enough opportunity. We have an opportunity now to know we will be in past October. I had 3,000 people, that is 1 percent of the whole city's population, turn out, and very engaged, very knowledgeable of the bill itself.

So I just hope the opportunity comes that knowing maybe there is a different number on this bill, but it is still H.R. 3200, that the public would be able to see it. And I will tell the gentleman that the Republicans on this side have a lot of ideas about health care, a lot of bills out there, of ways that we can lower the costs, take care of preexisting conditions and actually make health care much better for all Americans.

I appreciate the time and yield back.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). Is there objection to the re-

quest of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

TAXPAYERS REFUSE TO PAY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS' HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KING of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, a Rasmussen poll found that 83 percent of voters believe only U.S. citizens should be eligible for health care subsidies. However, H.R. 3200, the health care bill, gives coverage to illegal immigrants, despite what the President says.

Although language in the bill purports to prevent illegal immigrants from getting coverage, even the Congressional Research Service confirms that there are three major loopholes that render the language meaningless.

Number one, there is no method to verify eligibility. An amendment to include it was defeated by Democrats in committee.

Item number two, illegal immigrants are not prohibited from using the "public option," better described as the government mandate.

And, number three, all members of families including illegal immigrants may be eligible as a group, and language indicates so.

So if Congress wants to represent the wishes of the people, including the 70 percent of Democrats and 87 percent of Independents, they should add citizenship verification of eligibility to any health care legislation. But they have voted it down in committee 29-28. False claims about not covering illegal immigrants are hollow.

CALLING THE PRESIDENT OUT

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last night the President made a very eloquent speech here in the House Chamber. I am always impressed with his eloquence. But one of the things he said that stuck with me was he said if the Republicans, he didn't say "Republicans," but he said if anyone in the Chamber, and I think he was referring to Republicans, if anyone in the Chamber doesn't state the facts correctly or misleads the American people, he is going to call them out. That is a pretty tough term, "call them out."

So I just would like to say if I were talking to the President right now, Mr. President, that is a double-edged sword. You said you are going to call us out if we don't tell the truth. Well, in the next series today, I am going to take a 5-minute Special Order and I am going to go through everything, or as many as I can get to in 5 minutes, I am going to go through everything the

President said last night which was not quite true, because I think the American people really need to know the facts, and so we are going to call the President out.

GOVERNMENT GONE WILD

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Congress is spending money we don't have on things we cannot afford. We spent billions on the so-called stimulus that hasn't worked. The government took over the car industry and gave money to the fat cats on Wall Street. Congress gave money, America's money, to the banking industry, and this House passed a national energy tax.

The government is out of control. Nearly 10 percent of the people are unemployed. With these hard economic times, now we are told we have to spend \$1 trillion on a health care bill that is still confusing to most Americans. Where are we supposed to get the money?

We cannot continue to spend money we don't have and borrow it from our "friends" like China. This spending will cause inflation, and eventually somebody is going to get a massive tax increase to pay for a government gone wild.

Some taxacrats wish to tax small businesses into oblivion, the backbone of our country. Even if this were the greatest health care bill in the world, we can't afford to tax more Americans to pay for it. The American people deserve a break from all the spending, borrowing and taxation.

And that's just the way it is.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a new Gallup poll says that 39 percent of Americans want their Member of Congress to vote against a health care overhaul while 37 percent want their Representative to support it. An Associated Press poll shows 49 percent oppose a health care overhaul. The numbers show a deep division in the Nation, one that was evident in August townhall meetings where the American people had their say. These were people who took the time to read the House bill and decide against it because of cost, complication and controversy.

Yet there are elements in all the proposals before Congress on which people can agree, and it's time to go back to the drawing board and be inclusive. As a former health care provider, I'd very much like to be a part of the solutions that will help the situation without breaking the bank. Tort reform is a

must to reduce the cost of health care. Allowing insurers to compete across State lines will increase competition and thereby lower costs. Addressing workforce issues is crucial as baby boomer doctors, nurses and technicians retire.

Let's look at the approximately 13 million Americans out of 303 million who don't have an option for insurance and find a way to help the population that actually needs our help.

HONORING THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on our Nation, we honor those innocent people who perished on that terrible day and extend our continued prayers and sympathy to their loved ones. We remember the tremendous heroism and self-sacrifice of so many in New York, the Pentagon, and on a plane over Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Closer to home in New Jersey, communities across the Garden State remember those who perished and pay tribute to the distinguished service of the brave police officers, firefighters and first responders who answered the call and, in some cases, never returned home.

Today I come to the floor of the House to pay my special respect to the 81 New Jersey families in the Seventh Congressional District who lost loved ones as a result of the tragic terrorist attacks. To these families I say, we will never forget the sacrifices you and others have paid and continue to pay. I hope all Americans will pause tomorrow and take a moment to reflect on the tragedy of 9/11, to remember the victims, the heroes, and all the loved ones they left behind, while paying tribute to the men and women who serve and defend us today against the dangers we still face.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SEPTEMBER 11 OBSERVANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. As we mark the eighth anniversary of the tragic terrorist attacks on our country, we are reminded of the adage that "time heals all wounds." At Ground Zero, bulldozers are laying the foundation for new tow-

ers, while millions carry on their daily routine. Many who lost spouses have remarried, finding comfort in new love. Infants have grown into children and children into adults, with thoughts that dwell on the future, rather than the past.

For this we should be grateful. No one should live in the perpetual shadow of grief. And yet the wounds are still raw. New Yorkers still perceive the skyline of Manhattan as maimed and incomplete. We are still gripped at certain moments by memories of loved ones that are unbearably painful. We are still at war, bearing the unfinished burden of rooting out the perpetrators and instigators of evil. And as a Nation, as a people, we understand that the innocence shattered on that awful morning 8 years ago can never be fully restored.

Our challenge then, as Americans, is to honor the loss and heed the lessons of 9/11, while also affirming at every opportunity the optimism and confidence that always defined this great Nation at its best. In this body, we do this by remaining strong and steadfast in our determination to confront terrorists and their sponsors, using the full spectrum of American power as an instrument of justice. We do this by, together with the firefighters, police officers, emergency workers and intelligence officers, committing to the hard work of securing our land against those who would do violence, ensuring that our transportation networks and energy facilities, our ports and our bridges are defended by more than feckless hope.

We do this by refusing to give up our liberties out of fear, knowing that a retreat from our founding values does more harm to America than any external enemy ever could. And we do this by pursuing the age-old American vision of a world lifted by freedom, knowledge and prosperity in which all men and women have the tools to build just and decent societies that live in peace with their neighbors.

It has been my duty and honor to serve and to serve those goals as a Member of the United States Congress. In tribute to all those who lost their lives 8 years ago, to all those who have lost their lives in Iraq, in Afghanistan in the time since, and to all those whose lives are still shaped every day by memory and loss, let us together commit to upholding these responsibilities until our work is done.

Thank you. May God bless America, and may God bless all people of goodwill.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, last night President Obama told us that his administration would tackle medical malpractice reform as a way to lower health care costs. Defensive medicine